

Message Text

PAGE 01 JIDDA 04390 101100Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

USSS-00 /026 W

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Z O 101040Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 5141

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

INFO USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

UMISSING USUN NY IMMEDIATE 0900

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 4390

EXDIS

DHAHRAN PASS USMTM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, JO, ME

SUBJ: SAUDI PARTICIPATION

REF: (A) AMMAN 5390 (B) JIDDA 4376 (NOTAL) (C) JIDDA
4379 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: IN PLANNING FOR MOVE OF BRIGADE TO COMBAT AREA, SAUDIS
MAY BE PLAYING FOR TIME AS THEY DID IN 1967. NOTE HOWEVER
THAT BRIGADE (PROBABLY THAT STATIONED IN TOBUK) COULD MOVE
OUT SHORTLY. KING NOT LIKELY TO BE MOVED BY SIMPLE US REQUEST
FOR RESTRAINT; SUCH REQUEST MIGHT BE MORE EFFECTIVE AGAINST
BACKGROUND OF US CALL FOR STAND-STILL CEASEFIRE. END SUMMARY.

1. RE AMMAN'S REFTTEL SAUDIS SEEM TO BE RESPONDING TO RISING
PRESSURES UPON THEM TO DEMONSTRATE MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN WAR
(REFS B&C) BY ACTIONS REMINISCENT TO THOSE THEY TOOK IN 1967.

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 04390 101100Z

AT THAT TIME DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL SAUDIS ANNOUNCED THAT
SAUDI BRIGADE TO BE MOVED TO SCENE OF HOSTILITIES; LOGISTICS
OF MOVE HOWEVER SUCH THAT FIGHTING CAME TO AN END BEFORE
SAUDI TROOPS HAD CROSSED INTO JORDANIAN TERRITORY.

2.LOGICAL UNIT TO BE MOVED WOULD BE 20TH BRIGADE WHOSE APPROXIMATELY 2,000 MEN ARE STATIONED IN TOBUK; THESE COULD PROBABLY MOVE MORE RAPIDLY THAN IN 1967 SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO UNUSUAL LEVEL OF READINESS IN PREPARATION FOR LATE SEPTEMBER OPENING OF TOBUK MILITARY CANTONMENT (INFO ON DEVELOPMENTS IN TOBUK MAY BE AVAILABLE WHEN PLANE OR U.S. CORPS OF ENGINEERS ARRIVES JIDDA FROM TOBUK 1430Z OCT 10).

3. WE ARE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT KING WOULD TURN DEAF EAR TO STRAIGHTFORWARD PLEA FROM US THAT SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD AVOID SOME ACTIVE ROLE IN THE FIGHTING. SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE RECEIVED WITH CONSIDERABLE HOSTILITY, AND SAUDIS WOULD SUSPECT US OF MANEUVERING ON BEHALF OF ISRAELIS.

4. A US REQUEST FOR SAUDI SELF-RESTRAINT HOWEVER WOULD BE MUCH MORE PERSUASIVE IF MADE AGAINST BACKGROUND OF USG CALL FOR A CEASEFIRE IN PLACE. SAG WE ARE SURE WOULD FAVOR STAND-STILL CEASEFIRE, AND IF IT WERE PUBLICLY KNOWN THAT US WORKING TOWARD SUCH GOAL, US ARGUMENT THAT SAG SHOULD NOT FURTHER COMPLICATE MATTERS NOW BY BROADENING HOSTILITIES MIGHT BE PERSUASIVE.
HORAN

SECRET

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